UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,213	10/28/2003	Kazunori Horikiri	117616	3001

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2152	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/694,213	HORIKIRI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hieu T. Hoang	2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06/20/2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This office action is in response to communication filed on 06/20/2007.

2.   Claims 1-25 are pending and presented for examination.

Response to Amendment

3.   The objection of figure 56 has been withdrawn due to the amendment.

4.   The 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of claims 14 and 25 has been withdrawn due to the

amendment.

5.   The 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claim 25 has been withdrawn due to the

amendment.

6.   Applicant's argument on the non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting

rejection is found persuasive. Therefore, the double patenting rejection is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

7.   Applicant's arguments on the 102(e) and 103(a) rejections have been fully

considered but they are not persuasive. The main argument is on pages 9 of the

Remarks wherein the applicant argues that the prior art does not teach: "sharing and

editing files to enable users to perform cooperative work between the site systems". The

examiner respectfully traverses.

     In fact, the prior art does teach sharing and editing files to enable users to

perform cooperative work between the site systems (Dalal, [0025] line 17-[0026] line 11,

by delegating tasks of routing the communications payloads between the participants to

a central sever, the architecture allows a single, real-time session to be used for multi-

party communications; conference managing tasks include opening a workspace

(create or join a session), and editing files (adding or removing a user or a media

stream...))

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9.   Claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, and 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Dalal et al. (US 2003/0014488, hereafter Dalal).

10.   For claim 1, Dalal discloses a teleconference system for supporting realization of

cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems (abstract), the

teleconference system comprising:

- site systems each being installed at a plurality of sites respectively, and each

  configured to operate the corresponding conference system (fig. 1, clients with

  client conference controllers); and

- a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each other (fig. 1, conference service provider) and to share a workspace of an object for managing and using a task as a cooperation unit among the sites (fig. 2, [0012], conference control tasks are performed to enable users to perform cooperative work) and for sharing and editing files to enable users to perform cooperative work between the site systems ([0025] line 17-[0026] line 11, by delegating tasks of routing the communications payloads between the participants to a central sever, the architecture allows a single, real-time session to be used for multi-party communications).

11.   For claim 2, Dalal further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to manage a session for managing connection of the site systems ([0019]-[0021]), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference ([0036], lines 11-20), reference information to a resource relevant to the conference ([0049], claim 6), and history information of file access made by conference participants ([0036] lines 5-12).

12.   For claim 3, Dalal further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to provide a user interface for connecting a session and making reference to a file and/or a resource (fig. 5, web browser, [0097]).

13.   For claim 4, Dalal further discloses the shared workspace server is further

configured to instruct, when a client starts a session, all other clients already starting the

session to connect to the client ([0043], [0058]).

14.   For claim 5, Dalal further discloses the site system comprises: an electronic

whiteboard configured to provide a graphical user interface provided by a shared

workspace (fig. 5, web browser providing a shared workspace, [0097]); a video and

audio server configured to code and decode video and audio and to transmit and

receive video and audio to and from any other site system for sharing motion and

behavior of participants at the sites ([0024], [0031], [0080]); an authentication unit

configured to authenticate identification of the participants ([0047], [0036]); and a site

server configured to manage a session in the site systems (fig. 1, client session

controller), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference,

reference information to a resource relevant to the conference, and history information

of file access made by the participants ([0036] lines 5-20).

15.   For claim 6, Dalal further discloses the shared workspace server is further

configured to select a workspace based on user identification information transmitted

from the site system ([0030]).

16.   For claim 8, Dalal further discloses the shared workspace server is further

configured to select a workspace based on workspace specification information

transmitted from the site system ([0036] lines 5-9).

17.   For claim 10, Dalal further discloses the shared workspace server is further

configured to respond to a file reference request received from the site system, to start

application software to reference the file, and to provide an input/output interface with

the application for each site system with a session established ([0036], [0096]).

18.   For claim 11, Dalal further discloses the shared workspace server is further

configured to, in a case where the file specified in the file reference request is not

previously registered in the workspace, temporarily register the file ([0057] lines 1-6,

[0058] lines 1-6).

19.   For claim 12, Dalal further discloses the site system is configured to start

application software to reference the file specified in a file reference request, and to

provide an input/output interface with the application for any other site system with a

session established ([0036], [0096]).

20.   For claim 13, Dalal further discloses the site system is further configured to

receive the file specified in a file reference request from any other site system, to start

application software to reference the file, and to provide an input/output interface with

the application for any other site system with a session established ([0046] lines 10-18,

[0036], [0096]).

21.   For claim 14, Dalal discloses a teleconference support method for supporting

realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the method

comprising:

- providing at least one workspace comprising one or more sessions ([0025],

   [0021]);

- opening at least one workspace of the at least one workspace in response to

   workspace selection of a user ([0051], joining a conference, [0055]);

- adding at least one opened workspace to an active workspace ([0054]-[0055],

   [0061] lines 14-18);

- managing use of the at least one workspace ([0026] lines 1-11); and

- sharing and editing files to enable users to perform cooperative work between

   the site systems ([0025] line 17-[0026] line 11, delegating tasks of routing the

   communications payloads between the participants to a central sever, the

   architecture allows a single, real-time session to be used for multi-party

   communications).

22.   For claim 16, Dalal further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes

providing a user interface for making reference to a file and/or a resource (fig. 5, web

browser, [0097]).

23.   For claim 17, Dalal further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes

registering reference to a file and/or a resource ([0036] lines 5-20).

24.   For claim 18, Dalal further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes

switching a workspace, starting a subworkspace, and terminating the workspace

([0067]-[0069], switching a workspace is just terminating the workspace and start a new

workspace or subworkspace).

25.   For claim 19, Dalal further discloses in the managing use of the workspace, the

original workspace is deactivated in the switching of the workspace and/or in the

starting of the subworkspace ([0069], the real-time session is closed with the SPMS

before a user can start a new workspace (or switch to a new workspace)).

26.   For claim 20, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 4.

27.   For claim 21, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 6.

28.   For claim 22, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 7.

29.   For claim 23, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 8.

30.   For claim 24, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 9.

31.   For claim 25, Dalal discloses a computer program described in a computer-readable format so as to execute processing for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems in a computer system (abstract), the computer program comprising:

- providing at least one workspace comprising one or more sessions ([0025] lines 17-25);

- opening at least one workspace of the at least one workspace in response to workspace selection of a user ([0051], joining a conference, [0055]);

- adding the at least one opened workspace to an active workspace ([0054]-[0055], [0061] lines 14-18); and

- managing use of the at least one opened workspace ([0026] lines 1-11); and

- sharing and editing files to enable users to perform cooperative work between the site systems ([0025] line 17-[0026] line 11, delegating tasks of routing the communications payloads between the participants to a central sever, the architecture allows a single, real-time session to be used for multi-party communications).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

32.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

33.   Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal, as applied to claim 14 above.

34.   For claim 15, Dalal substantially discloses the invention as in claim 14 above. Dalal does not explicitly selecting a workspace from a plurality of workspace candidates from a user interface.

However, Dalal discloses the display of an invitation message so that the user can choose to join the conference, i.e. workspace, conference rooms ([0051], conference information is displayed for the user to select, reading a workspace candidate as an invitation message displayed on the user interface).

Therefore, according to MPEP 2144.02, section VI(b), Duplication of Parts, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Dalal in order to provide a plurality of invitation messages and then display a plurality of invitation messages to the user so that the user can select a conference or a workspace associated with an invitation message that he/she wants to join to provide more functionality to the system and more flexibility to the user (e.g., he/she can decide which conference is more necessary to attend now and which can be hold off).

35.   Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Dalal, as applied to claims 6 and 8 above, in view of Kisliakov (2005/0178833).

36.   For claims 7 and 9, Dalal substantially discloses the invention as in claims 6 and

8 above. Dalal discloses the shared workspace server is configured to select the

workspace based on the user identification information or workspace identification

information transmitted by the site system. Dalal does not explicitly disclose that the

identification information is transmitted using an IC card.

    However, Kisliakov discloses using an IC card to store session and user

identification information (see, e.g., [0227]).

    Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the teachings of Dalal and Kisliakov in order to store ID

information in a smart card therefore provide ease of ID information storage and

retrieval with increased security protection (Kisliakov, [0002]).

Conclusion

37.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

    A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

38.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Hieu T. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-

1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,

EST.

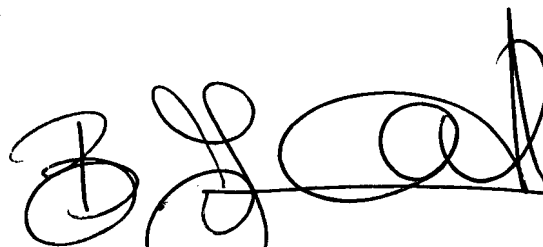   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

273-8300.

      Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HA

HH

BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

4/6/17